



## Public Safety Communications Highlights

- On June 19, the Lewis & Clark County Commission approved several communications projects, including the acquisition of a software-based Help Desk support system, a core router expansion, remote alarm monitoring, and an upgrade of the Lewis and Clark County microwave ring to give it Ethernet capability. Purchase of Montana statewide system spare parts also was approved.
- On June 22, the FCC adopted an Order to transmit the recommendations of the Technical Advisory Board for First Responder Interoperability to NTIA. View it here:  
[http://transition.fcc.gov/Daily\\_Releases/Daily\\_Business/2012/db0621/FCC-12-68A1.pdf](http://transition.fcc.gov/Daily_Releases/Daily_Business/2012/db0621/FCC-12-68A1.pdf).

## Outstanding Public Safety Performers Recognized at MT APCO Conference



The Montana Statewide Interoperability Coordinator (SWIC) and Public Safety Services Bureau would like to join the Montana's APCO Chapter in congratulating six individuals recognized for "outstanding public safety performance" at the June 13-14 Montana APCO annual conference in Great Falls. The six awardees include:

### **Radio Frequency Technologist of the Year:**

Roger Smith (Lewis & Clark County)

### **Telecommunicator of the Year:**

Galen Westhoff (Sheridan County)

### **Line Supervisor of the Year:**

Lisa Maciag (Missoula 9-1-1) (No Photo)

### **Trainer of the Year:**

Jacqueline Tuszynski (MT Highway Patrol)

### **Information Technologist of the Year:**

Scott O'Connell (Helena Police Dept.)

### **Communications Director of the Year:**

Lt. Curt Stinson (Helena Police Dept.)



Featured left to right: Susan Bomstad, MT APCO President, Roger Smith, Microwave Network Administrator, and Michele Blais, MT APCO Vice President

Each of these awardees was nominated by public safety peers for superior performance and professionalism. Outstanding performance by dedicated professionals can help to improve operability and interoperability in the public safety community, and in turn, improves responder and public safety.



Gaylan Westhoff



Jacqueline Tuszynski

In addition, all selected professionals will be submitted to APCO International for selection of the 2013 public safety awards. Congratulations for your outstanding contributions to public safety communications!



Scott O'Connell



Lt. Curt Stinson

# HEARD ACROSS MONTANA

## Montana's Narrowband Update

Below is the June 2012 VHF/UHF narrowband license status update. For questions about narrowbanding your current FCC licenses, please contact Scott Bradford at [sbradford@mt.gov](mailto:sbradford@mt.gov).

By FRN #			
# NB	#WB	Total	% NB
194	222	416	47%
By Call Sign			
# NB	# WB	Total	% NB
771	368	1139	68%
By # of Fixed Transmitters			
# NB	# WB	Total	% NB
2836	895	3731	76%

Statistics were current as of June 17, 2012 at 6:37 a.m. **Source:** U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Office of Emergency Comm./ICTAP web site: [http://publicsafetytools.info/start\\_nb\\_status.php](http://publicsafetytools.info/start_nb_status.php).

## NECP Goal #2 Reporting Update

Two additional counties have submitted both their communications capabilities and performance evaluation reports as part of Montana's reporting requirements for the National Emergency Communications Plan (NECP). Congratulations go to Sheriff Tony Harbaugh and Undersheriff Patrick Roos, Custer County, and to Vernon Buerkle, Undersheriff in Valley County. Way to go!

The submission rate for the communications capabilities report has now reached 93%, while Montana's performance evaluation reporting is at 55%.

Click [here](#) for the capabilities questionnaire and [here](#) for the county performance survey. Completed reports should be e-mailed to E. Wing Spooner, [espooner@mt.gov](mailto:espooner@mt.gov). Anyone with questions is encouraged to call her at 406-444-2491.

## New Statewide Microwave System Helps Improve MHP Base Station Connectivity

On Wed., June 20, Montana Highway Patrol (MHP) Radio Technicians Dale Osborne and Mike Kaufman upgraded the connectivity of the Region 4 (Billings) MHP radio system's base station at the Red Lodge Ski Area, known as Grizzly Peak or the Palisades Site (See Photo to the Right). Up until Wed., this base station, which controls seven MHP

repeaters in the Big Sky 11 Consortium area, was linked to the MHP Dispatch Center in Helena only by a UHF link to the MHP Billings District Office and a phone line back to Helena.

Dale and Mike, along with MHP Dispatch Center Technician Ken Foran, moved the base station to a circuit that rides the former Mobile Data Microwave from Red Lodge Mtn. to Shane Ridge. It then cross connects to the statewide microwave system to provide east-west connectivity along I-90 to the MHP Dispatch in Helena and the Coburn Site in Billings. This change greatly improves the reliability of the circuit.



## Upcoming Meetings

- **Thurs., July 12: Northern Tier Consortium**  
Havre • 10:00 am - 12:30 pm  
Hill County Detention Center Courtroom Mtg. Area  
1450 2<sup>nd</sup> St. West
- **Tues., July 10: Statewide Interoperability Governing Board (SIGB)**  
Helena • 10:00 am - noon  
State Capitol, Room 152  
[http://itsd.mt.gov/policy/councils/sigb/07102012\\_meeting.mcp](http://itsd.mt.gov/policy/councils/sigb/07102012_meeting.mcp)
- **Tues., July 17: State Agency Radio Users Task Force**  
Helena • 2:30 - 4:00 pm  
Mitchell Building, 125 N. Roberts, Rm. 160



*All of us at  
PSSB wish you a  
very Happy  
Fourth of July!*

*Happy Independence Day!*